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Woodbridge Urban District Council.



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Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1963



C.H. IRRIE,

T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

WOODBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

*With the Compliments of
Dr. C. H. Inrie,*

Medical Officer of Health

Telephone 299

Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge
Suffolk.

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Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

November, 1964.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year, 1963, dealing with the general health of the population of Woodbridge and with such matters of hygiene and sanitation as may influence the health of the community.

I would like to thank the Council and Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C.H. Imrie, T.D., Q.H.S.,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

G. Ogden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

A. STATISTICS

1. Summary of General Statistics

Area of District in Acres	...	1112
Number of inhabited houses (approx.)	...	2137
Rateable Value of District	...	£178,093.0.0.
Product of Penny Rate	...	£702.

The population of Woodbridge, over the past five years has, with minor fluctuations, remained fairly static around 6,000 persons. The variations both up and downwards have been of small proportions with the nett result that there has been little change in the size of the population.

The population estimate of the Registrar General for 1963 was 6,100 which is 30 more than in the previous year but falls short of the figure for 1961.

The Live Births in 1963 were fewer by 10 than those in the previous year and the Live Birth Rate, adjusted for comparison, was 15.02 per 1,000 population compared with 18.2 for England and Wales.

Still Births numbered 4 during the year. This figure being the highest for ten years.

The General Death Rate, adjusted for comparison was 13.07 - which is rather above the rate for England and Wales (12.2).

The Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) numbered 3. This figure approximates to the average over the past ten years.

It will be noted from the statistical section that deaths of females considerably outnumbered those of males. Disparity of this magnitude is unusual but probably has no significance. It will be seen that circulatory and heart diseases form the major group of causes. Deaths from malignant causes increased during the year and here the females were in a majority.

It will be noted that there were no deaths from infectious diseases or associated with pregnancy or childbirth. There were, however, 3 deaths from accidents which is rather fewer than in the previous year but is still too many.

Infectious disease notifications totalled 159 which is mainly accounted for by 136 cases of measles which occurred in the first half of the year. This disease, although rarely serious, is a cause of considerable disturbance to schooling. Recently the hopes of finding an effective form of immunisation against measles have been raised and it now seems likely that within a few years the means of protecting against this nuisance will be available.

There were 10 cases of scarlet fever reported in the winter months. This disease has lost much of its former terrors due mainly to the advent of antibiotics. In recent years the manifestations of scarlet fever have been most equivocal and the effects have rarely been serious.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register fell during the year from 22 to 18. There can be no doubt that the more modern methods of case finding and treatment are slowly eliminating the disease.

The Council's scheme for slum clearance in Castle Street was carried further during the year. The scheme for the South side of the street was started and progress was satisfactory during the year. The completed scheme should provide an attractive and well-planned addition to the town.

The Public Conveniences in the town from time to time come in for adverse comment from various sources. This applies particularly to the one in Oak Lane which is poorly lit in daytime and is tiled in a somewhat dingy hue. In addition much of the tile-work is cracked and difficult to keep clean in spite of the regular attention which it receives. I would recommend that a critical examination should be made of this conveniences with a view to modernisation. Planning of a conveniences near the Market Hill was started and it is hoped that this will materialise.

Refuse Disposal for the town is centred on the pit in Haugh Lane. As this pit is sited in fairly close proximity to dwelling houses it is of supreme importance that the methods of working the Tip should be most meticulous. It is essential that the man in charge should know his job thoroughly and that he should have equipment at his disposal to ensure that the covering is done properly and efficiently.

The Scheme for sewage disposal in the town has made considerable progress. The Joint Works at Creek Farm are making progress and the proposals are good for the completion of a much needed amenity in Woodbridge.

Summary of Vital Statistics

1954 to 1963

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Estimated Population	5510	5540	5590	5620	5680	5950	6190	6020	6070	6100
Birth Rate	18.7 (103)	15.7 (87)	12.7 (71)	16.19 (91)	17.9 (102)	15.4 (92)	16.18 (100)	12.8 (77)	14.6 (89)	12.95 (79)
Still Birth Rate	28.3 (3)	11.3 (1)	nil	31.8 (3)	9.8 (1)	10.8 (1)	10.0 (1)	nil	21.9 (2)	48.2 (4)
Death Rate	13.25 (73)	12.4 (69)	13.7 (77)	11.2 (66)	10.5 (62)	12.6 (75)	11.9 (74)	12.45 (75)	13.8 (84)	15.57 (95)
Infantile Death Rate	67.96 (7)	11.4 (1)	nil	32.9 (3)	9.8 (1)	10.8 (1)	50.0 (5)	12.9 (1)	11.2 (1)	37.9 (3)

Note:

Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Population</u>	<u>Adjusted Rate for Comparison</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Population England & Wales</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u>						
Legitimate	42	35	79	12.95	15.02	18.2
Illegitimate	2	-				
(b) <u>Still Births</u>						
Legitimate	4	-	4	* 48.2	-	17.3
Illegitimate	-	-				
(c) <u>Deaths all Ages</u>	38	57	95	15.57	13.07	12.2
(d) <u>Deaths under 1 year of age</u>	-	3	3	* 37.9	-	20.9

* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

<u>Code</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1963</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1962</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	9	11	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	9	12	11
18. Coronary disease, angina	10	7	17	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-	1
20. Other heart disease	5	5	10	8
21. Other circulatory disease	1	6	7	5
22. Influenza	1	1	2	-
23. Pneumonia	5	2	7	4
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	9	11	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1	4
34. All other accidents	-	2	2	3
35. Suicide	-	-	-	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
	<u>38</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>84</u>

Infectious Disease

Notifications Received

Disease	under <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> to <u>2</u>	<u>3</u> to <u>4</u>	<u>5</u> to <u>9</u>	<u>10</u> to <u>14</u>	<u>15</u> to <u>24</u>	<u>25</u> to <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> to <u>64</u>	<u>65</u> & over	<u>age</u> unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	5	1	2	-	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	6	21	34	67	2	2	1	-	-	3	136
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	6
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
											159

Monthly Notifications

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apl</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jne</u>	<u>Jly</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	4	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	25	40	36	16	3	6	5	4	-	1	-	-	136
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
													159

Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register <u>1st January, 1963</u>	12	6	2	2	22
Number of cases notified <u>during the year</u>	2	-	-	-	2
Number restored to <u>Register</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise <u>than by Notification</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed <u>from Register</u>	1	3	1	1	6
Number remaining on Register <u>at 31st December, 1963</u>	13	3	1	1	18

Details of Cases added to Register

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Location of Disease</u>
45	M	Company Secretary	Pulmonary
18	M	Apprentice Plumber	Pulmonary

Details of Cases Removed from Register

6 - Recovered

HOUSINGStatistics for 1963

Number of inhabited houses in the District at 31.12.63.	2,137
Average number of persons per house	2.85
Number of new houses completed by Local Authority during the year	16
Total of post war Council Houses completed to 31.12.63.	394
Private buildings completed during 1963	31
Number of Improvement Grants approved during the year:	
Discretionary	- 10
Standard	- 14
Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31.12.63.	194

General Inspection

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	76
(b) Total number of houses found to be unsatisfactory	37
(c) Number of houses still occupied for human habitation in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made	Nil

Housing Repairs

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	Nil
Number of scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	Nil

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil
Number of properties involved in Clearance Orders	Nil
Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders	38
Number of dwellings included in designated Clearance Areas (to be acquired by the Council)	5

Individual Houses

Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	4
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
Number of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 12 Housing Act, 1936)	Nil
Number closed under Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1953	Nil
Number of families rehoused from unfit houses	12

FOOD

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is purveyed to the public is 81 which is the same as in the previous year.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	- 8	Grocers	- 9
Butchers	- 7	Green Grocers	- 10
Confectioners	- 10	General Stores	- 13
Dairies	- 2	Pork Butchers	- 2
Fish Mongers	- 4	Hotels & Cafes	- 12
Fish & Chip Shops	- 4		

Food Inspections

It should be noted that the Food and Drugs Authority for Woodbridge is the East Suffolk County Council but the condemnation of unfit items is done by the Officers of the Local Authority.

The following items were inspected and condemned during the year:-

10 lbs. Lambs Liver	2 tins Cat Food
72 lbs. Topside	4 tins Soup
27 lbs. Sausages	5 tins Peas
13 lbs. Corned Beef	1 tin Beans
3 tins Corned Beef	5 tins Tomatoes
61 lbs. Bacon	1 tin Beetroot
7 tins Meat	1 tin Carrots
3 tins Irish Stew	28 tins Fruit
2 6lb. tins Pork Loin	1 tin Pie Filling
2 14 lb. tins Ham	2 tins Milk
18 Meat Pies	11 tins Cream
4 lbs.6 oz. Ham and Egg Pie	1 tin Creamed Rice
42 lbs. Crab	1 tinned Pudding
3 tins Sardines	7 lbs. Jam
3 tins Dog Meat	1 lb. Marmalade

Action under Various Acts & Regulations

1963

1. Factories Act, 1937

	<u>On Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Factories not employing power	5	2	-	-
Factories employing power	37	20	-	-
	42	22	-	-

Outworkers - Nil on Register.

11. National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was considered necessary during the year.

